

INSIDE INFORMATION

No.1 June '89

PRISONERS OF CLASS CONFLICT, INJUSTICE AND OPPRESSION, STRUGGLES WITHIN PRISON WALLS.

AN INNOCENT MAN

Martin Foran was blatantly framed for armed robbery and sentenced to 10 years, which is now finished. During his sentence, to draw attention to severe medical problems which were being ignored, he took a screw hostage. For this, another 6 years were added to his sentence.

Martin's health problems are very severe. The prison service is denying him medical attention.

The latest on Martin is that he was moved from Parkhurst up to Frankland, in Durham. He was supposed to be booked in for an operation in St. Mary's Hospital in the Isle of Wight in April. Frankland Prison is in the medical catchment area of Walton Prison, where Martin may be moved for 'treatment'. Walton Hospital Wing is still being run by the same scum who kicked hell out of Martin after the last operation, and who are directly responsible for the destruction of his health. They were found guilty of the attack but are not to be prosecuted.



Martin is being given the wrong coelostomy bags, and was left with shit pouring out of his belly for hours. He suffered a heart attack on April 15th; the doctors say another one will kill him. He also has cancer of the right eye. All this is a direct result of the Prison Department's procrastination. They are determined to continually delay treatment until Martin is dead.

MARTIN FORAN C51746, HMP FRANKLAND, PO BOX 40, FINCHALE AVE, BRASSIDE, DURHAM DH1 5YD, ENGLAND.

Write to the Governor of HMP Frankland at the above address. Pressure must be put on in order to save Martin's life.

A comprehensive case document on Martin's fight is available in binder from Box JAG, 52 Call Lane, Leeds L11, for £2 and large SAE and post.

Hunger strike

FIFTEEN Kurdish refugees being held in Winchester Prison have gone on hunger strike in protest at their treatment. The Kurds fled persecution in Turkey to seek asylum in Britain.

Evening News, Friday, June 2

German Hunger Strike 'Victory'

The hunger strike by Red Army Faction political prisoners in various gaols across Germany has ended in what appears to be at least partial victory. As reported in last month's Red All Over, they were being kept in isolation and generally inhuman conditions.

Although there has not yet been a statement from the prisoners, it seems that those states under Social Democratic control have given in to the demand of free association but those under Conservative administrations are still to be held in conditions internationally recognised as psychological torture.

'Red All Over' No. 2, June

PM & TWO LETTERS FROM THE 'LAND OF THE FREE'.
23 MAY 1989

REVOLUTIONARY CELL?

Paul Wright is doing life, along with Ed Mead he produces the Red Dragon Newsletter, a Marxist-oriented analysis of prison struggles around the world.

Many greetings from the gulag. Please note my new address. The pigs at Monroe transferred me here, to a more repressive kamp, after I actively participated in a class action lawsuit against double-celling and bad conditions. After we'd won in court, the State attempted to panic us into capitulation by threatening to close the prison! This was backed by inmate collaborators and informers. I spoke out against this at a prisoner meeting attended by 52 'lifers' - that we had fought too

hard and too long since 1978, and had made too many sacrifices to just throw away what we had already won in court; that if they closed down the prison, then so be it, we would run 700 pigs onto the Welfare lines! This got a standing ovation and a unanimous vote of 'No capitulation'.

The next day I was slammed into isolation as a 'threat to security', and accused of 'developing an international revolutionary network that advocates armed resistance against the U.S. government', and of participating in the Red Dragon; also of writing a letter to Class War telling them that I'd try to write an article about nuclear disarmament in Europe. For this I was accused of 'offering to share (my) military knowledge and information about U.S. military basics and nuclear weapons in the U.K. with anti-U.S. groups in London, England'.

Yes, folks, the World Revolution is being started out of a prison cell in the small town of Monroe, W.A...

I'm in the process of litigating this transfer as it's patently illegal. Despite the continuing repression - all my mail is being opened, read, photocopied; some is rejected, more disappears, and the pigs have disrupted direct communication between Ed and myself - despite this, the Red Dragon will be published this August. We are soliciting articles, art, info, etc.. Send these direct to; Ed Mead, PO Box 777, Monroe, W.A. 98272, USA. Ed will also be printing a 1990 Prisoners Calendar, available in July.

In Struggle,
Paul Wright., 930783, POB 520, 8-1-14, Walla Walla, WA 99362, USA.



CO PHCI, 11 Forth St.

INSIDE OR OUT, IT'S THE SAME STRUGGLE: THESE PRISONERS NEED SUPPORT.

TORTURED WOMAN

"My name is Linda Couch. I was once a mother of three children and a nursing student. But now I am a number, a victim of the system, at the mercy of the STATE.....

"I was married at the young age of 16. I was married for 14 years to a cruel, unmerciful, sick-minded man. I lived in constant fear, I walked on egg-shells. I was terrified of the man, so I endured the humiliation, the physical abuse, mental abuse and sexual abuse. Oh, he was good at not showing his handywork on me, and I dared not breath a word of it. Even my own children do not know the cruel abuse that I had to endure in order to protect them.

"In the 14 years I was abused, he threatened to kill me many times. He threatened my mother if I left him and went home, and he threatened the lives of my three children if I divorced him, as I had intentions of doing. I had no-one to turn to, nowhere to hide. I was trapped like an animal, and that is how I was treated like an animal.

"I could not have friends for he kept me to himself; I was with him 24 hours a day. (He was permanently out of work, due to a disability) I could not go anywhere without him or the children. I had no free time to myself. If I went anywhere he had me timed; I would have to call him to tell him that I was where I was supposed to be, then I would have to call him before coming back home and if I was just a minute longer than he thought I should be, I would be tortured that night when the children could not see or hear me cry for mercy.



"Many times I was tied to the bed naked and spread-eagled so that he could torture me sexually. One time he called over 4 men and I was raped over and over until I passed out. He took pictures of it all and used them as blackmail to keep me in line.

"In front of family, neighbours, and friends of his he was the perfect husband and father. The only person who knew of my abuse was my mother, and I did not tell her everything. She couldn't have taken it.

"He would never let me do anything on my own; even going to college was a joke, for he went too, and was in every class I took. I could not shit by myself - he even went to the bathroom with me. I was smothered by this man. I felt at times that I could not breath. Many times I tried to kill myself, for only then could I find my peace from him. But even that failed, for he would find out what I had taken, induce vomiting and make me walk all night. When he was sure I would live, he would beat me and torture me for trying to leave him."

One night in October 1984 Linda and her husband had a terrible fight, he went to the bedroom, where a .22 was kept, and when he returned with it, Linda knew that he was going to kill her. She kneed him in the groin, and they struggled for the gun, which went off, shooting her husband through the head and killing him instantly.



"Now I am in PRISON for murdering my husband. I received 20 years to LIFE, seeing no parole till I do at least 20 years. Both my trials were a mockery of JUSTICE. I didn't have a chance in Hell. "Violence has got to stop. Women are not punching bags, we are human beings. I have not stopped being a woman even in prison, and I will not give in to the inhuman treatment we endure day to day.

"I need help to fight this injustice. I will not regain my freedom without help from others who care. The State took everything from me, including my children, who I haven't seen or heard from since 1985. All my letters to them are returned unopened. I have nothing except my pride, and they would take that too if I let them. Please help me, whoever is out there. I want to see my children grow up. I have already missed out on life. Give me that chance to make something of what is left."

Linda Couch, 1479 Collins Ave., Marysville, Ohio 43040 - 17943 NC, USA.
Linda Couch Defence Fund, c/o Counter Information, 11 Forth St., Edinburgh 1

MARIE AND NOEL MURRAY

Anarchist Black Cross is preparing a major campaign for the Murrays, who organised the ABC in the 26 Counties prior to their arrest in 1975. Both were charged with armed robbery and killing a cop. Noel was originally sentenced to death; this was commuted to life imprisonment which, as there is no parole or review board in the 26 Counties, is as long as the omnipotent Justice Minister wants it to be. They are planning to reorganise the Irish ABC upon release, but so far there is no sign of a release date being given.

CONJUGAL RIGHTS

The Murrays would like to have a child before it is too late and have gone to litigation. The case cannot proceed in the Supreme Court until the judge from the High Court hearing returns the case papers. So far he hasn't got round to it, and it's been five years! Obviously the authorities are hoping that the Murrays have been forgotten. Let's show them otherwise.

MARIE MURRAY. MOUNTJOY PRISON, DUBLIN 7, IRELAND.
NOEL MURRAY, LIMERICK GAOL, CO. LIMERICK, IRELAND.
Defence donations, case details from London ABC, BM Hurricane London WC1N 3XX

ORGANIZER FRAMED

In 1988, in response to allegations that guards beat and killed two black prisoners for touching two white nurses, IWW members at the Ohio Correctional Facility in Lucasville, in conjunction with their local General Defence Committees, drafted a 30 page human rights complaint with 200 pages of exhibits listing various human rights violations and naming names. Over 200 SOCF prisoners attested to the veracity of this document's allegations. SOCF officials confiscated the document in an effort to suppress the investigation but an IWW member was able to smuggle a copy through to the outside and into the London office of Amnesty International (AI), who are currently conducting their own investigation.

In retaliation to this damaging light shed on the Lucasville situation, IWW organizer and jailhouse lawyer John Perotti has been indicted for felonious assault. Perotti has been forefront in all IWW activities at SOCF and has also won lawsuits against the prison for civil rights violations. He has spent 6 of the last 7 years locked in isolation for this activism yet he continues to persevere in his organizing efforts. The prison authorities call his activities "a threat to the security of the institution." Perotti has suffered other forms of retaliation, in particular, this current indictment for assault.

A prisoner, while walking down the range in the SOCF J-4 block, was stabbed in the stomach. Perotti happened to be locked in his cell in that block. No guards or prisoners saw Perotti stab anyone, nor do any even say they did. Yet John Perotti was charged with this stabbing that occurred no where near his cell.

The fact of the matter is that literally thousands of stabbings, prisoner-on-prisoner and guard-on-prisoner stabbings have occurred at SOCF since it opened in 1973 as Ohio's only maximum security prison. Only a small percentage of these incidents have resulted in a prisoner being indicted. Perotti was accused of the stabbing on September 25, 1988 - just days after AI started its investigation. Since September 25, 1988, there have been 15 prisoner-on-prisoner stabbings and two guard-on-prisoner murders. Yet there have been no indictments.

The SW Ohio IWW General Membership Branch, with its two GDC locals, and attorney Jerry McHenry will show that Scioto County prosecutors and SOCF officials practice a policy of selective prosecution - prosecuting only those prisoners who are serious activists and "troublemakers" in the eyes of these officials. And facts will be presented to court that will demonstrate the impossibility of Perotti having committed this stabbing.

The trial is scheduled for June 19, 1989 if not dismissed for selective prosecution. Details of all conditions and human rights violations at SOCF will be brought to bear in this case.

For more information or to make a donation
JOHN PEROTTI DEFENCE FUND
C/O INSIDE INFORMATION.

INSIDE INFORMATION

NO.8 FEB/MAR. 90

PRISONERS OF CLASS CONFLICT, INJUSTICE AND OPPRESSION, STRUGGLES WITHIN PRISON WALLS

DEATH STRIKE IN U.S.A.

On February 14, prisoners in U.S. prisons commenced a Death Strike - a refusal of food and liquids in final protest against the brutality and repression inherent in the system.

Originally planned to start on January 22, the Death Strike was conceived and organised in the Control Unit of Southern Ohio Correctional Facility (S.O.C.F.) by John Perotti, Eric 'Sudan' Swafford and Michael Day - the 'Lucasville 3' - who have each spent many years isolated in the torture cells of S.O.C.F.

The last news from the States was that about 15 inmates in S.O.C.F. have joined the Death Strike; also some in Ohio's Women's Prisons, where women are forced to do hard labour for \$3 per month. Those who refuse, as in S.O.C.F., are locked in isolation. The Strike has also spread to the notorious Marion Federal Prison in Illinois, which was specifically built to break the minds and spirits of rebellious - usually political - prisoners, and is the only prison in the U.S.A. to be condemned by Amnesty International.

Readers of 'Inside Info' will know of John Perotti's long and tortuous struggle against torture, racism and murder in the prisons, a struggle that has meant more time being repeatedly added to his sentence. He was originally gaoled for the non-violent theft of \$7, 15 years ago. Last year, he had another 12-15 years added to his sentence, after being framed for a stabbing which took place when he was in solitary, and to which another prisoner confessed. If he were to serve the minimum of this, John, an organiser with the Wobblies (Industrial Workers of the World - IWW), a self-taught and qualified lawyer, and sometimes poet and writer, would then have been gaoled for 27 years exactly the same time as was served by Nelson Mandela - for a petty theft when he was 19 years old.

John has been kept in isolation for the last 7 years.

Eric Swafford held a guard hostage in the Control Unit to publicise the brutality and murder in S.O.C.F. He has been in solitary for 6 years, and has been told that he will never be released from isolation.

Michael Day bribed guards to walk him out of the prison, was captured by the F.B.I. in Mexico, and illegally taken across the border to Texas, and then to Ohio to stand trial for escaping, and for kidnapping the guards who assisted.

We publish below the 1st Communique of the Deathstrike. Recently we heard, but have not yet received a full report, that when the Warden discovered the planned Strike, John Perotti was systematically beaten half dead by 10 prison officers.

We ask all friends and supporters to write protest letters/phone the addresses listed below and kick up a stink. Amnesty International, who refused to assist in the past, is not answering our letters. A Scottish writer, however, is petitioning colleagues in Literary and Academic circles of the U.S. (including Noam Chomsky) to offer publicity and assistance.

All readers are requested to write/phone and protest. Also to picket/blockade U.S. Embassies and businesses. February 12 was an International Day of Action in support of the Strikers but as of going to print we have received no details of these. Please send these to 'Inside Info' for publication.



Protesters at the U.S. Embassy in Edinburgh

COMMUNIQUE

January 1st, 1990

We who are incarcerated in the torture cells of the J1 Supermax Control Unit of this steel and concrete madhouse, send you our greetings and wishes at this the start of a new year and decade. This year is also the 200th 'anniversary' of the establishment of prisons in Amerikkka. To mark this, and having decided that we can take no more, as from January 22 we will be commencing a Death Fast, refusing all foods and liquids until our demands are dealt with, or until we die.

These prisonrat sadists have locked up, tortured, experimented on and murdered too many of us. We will take no more. We must take the offensive. Repression here has increased, murders and torture by guards continues, the Control Unit, based on that in the notorious Marion Federal Prison, which is the only prison in Amerikkka which has been condemned by Amnesty International, remains open for business. We are subjected to long-term isolation, and recently I was railroaded through the court and given another 12-15 years for a prison stabbing which occurred when I was locked in solitary, and to which another prisoner openly confessed in court. We have many other legitimate reasons.



We have decided to put only our own lives on the line, and to repeat the actions of H-Block hunger strikers in N. Ireland. Once we spread the word, we know that others will join in. Our demands include:-

1. Out-of-State transfers for us all.
2. Increase of prisoners wages. No more slave labour for Ohio Prison Industries.
3. Reduction of the incarceration/sentencing laws.
4. Closure of the JI Control Unit.
5. Ending of Unit Management and Behaviour Modification Techniques (Torture).
6. All isolation prisoners to be allowed their personal possessions, books, and contact visits with their loved ones.
7. Cessation of routine beatings, macings, fire-hosings, strip-searches and murders of prisoners by guards.
8. Prosecution of all guards who torture and murder prisoners.
9. Provision of adequate medical treatment for prisoners.
10. Provision of Due Process, written criteria and hearings for isolation placement and retention, and on conduct reports.
11. Establishment of a Citizens' Committee of unbiased civilians to monitor prisoner grievances, the Parole Board, and Human Rights violations in prisons.
12. Collective bargaining for prisoner-workers.
13. Abolition of the Death Penalty.

This is just the tip of the iceberg; we wanted to get this out quickly, before we commence the Strike. Further communiques will follow, while we are able.

As you will know, without a broad base of outside support, the prisonrats will gladly let us die. We therefore urge all friends and supporters to send protest letters to the addresses attached, telegram, to try to get us media cover and air play, and to call the prison regularly to check on our physical and mental well-being.

If we must die, so be it. Death would be preferable to this lingering Hell in these Sensory Deprivation boxes. We do this not only for ourselves, but for our children. At present, 1,000,000 human beings, almost without exception from the working class, and predominantly from oppressed ethnic minorities, are caged in this 'Land of the Free'.

All the comrades here send their revolutionary regards to all of you out there.

In Solidarity, Love, and Respect,

John Perotti, Michael Day, Eric 'Sudan' Swafford

UPDATE 28/2/90

We have as yet received no reports on the extent of solidarity actions on the 12th of this month, but we do know that a mass of protest letters were sent, many of which have been 'replied to' by the SOCF Warden, Terry Morris, who says that every thing in the prison is sweetness and light.

On the first day of the Death Strike, one third of the inmates of SOCF refused food (over 700 men): on the same day, John P. was transferred out of the Control Unit to another prison in Ohio. This was when he was attacked by screws. Inmates in Marion and Walla Walla in Washington also refused food. Paul Wright of the Red Dragon prisoners newsletter was transferred out of Walla Walla at the same time. Another of the Lucasville 3 has also been moved, but at this time we do not know who or where to.

Phone calls to John's 'new' prison are met with 'Mr. Perotti is on a diet just now'. We urge readers to send letters of support to John, and also queries/protests to the Warden.

JOHN PEROTTI, #167-712
LEBANON CORRECTIONAL INST.
POB 56, LEBANON, OHIO 45036,
USA.

SOURCES: Letter from Paul Wright, 14/2.
Phone call to Vancouver ABC.
Letter from Ohio IWW.

There seems to be a near communications blackout from US prisons at the moment. We will publish news as it comes in.

STOP PRESS-10/3/90: OHIO GOVERNOR ORDERS COMPLETE INVESTIGATION OF ALL FEMALE STRIKEBIDS
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